

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An electrical connector, comprising:
 - an insulative housing having a mounting surface that is inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to an engagement direction with another connector;
 - a plurality of contacts arranged in the insulative housing, each contact having a tine that extends parallel to the engagement direction for insertion into through-holes of a circuit board;
 - and
 - an aligning member attached to the insulative housing, the aligning member having a plurality of apertures for receiving and aligning the tines, and standoffs that reduce bending stress applied to the tines, the standoffs abut the circuit board so that the aligning member inclines at an angle less than the predetermined angle when the insulative housing is mounted on the circuit board.
2. (original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein the standoffs incline the aligning member in the same direction as the insulative housing.
3. (original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein the tines on a side opposite an inclined side of the insulative housing become progressively longer than the tines on the inclined side.
4. (original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein the apertures are beveled to facilitate insertion of the tines.

5. (original) The electrical connector of claim 1, wherein the standoffs are provided on a bottom surface of the aligning member along a longitudinal direction thereof on both an inclined side and a side opposite from the inclined side.

6. (original) The electrical connector of claim 5, wherein the standoffs on the inclined side protrude less than the standoffs on the side opposite thereto to incline the aligning member.

7. (currently amended) An electrical connector, comprising:

an insulative housing having a mounting surface that is inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to a plane perpendicular to an engagement direction with another connector;
a plurality of contacts arranged in the insulative housing, each contact having a tine that extends parallel to the engagement direction for insertion into through-holes of a circuit board;
and

an alignment member with a base plate having a plurality of apertures for receiving and aligning the tines, the base plate having standoffs that protrude from the base plate to abut the circuit board such that bending stress applied to the tines by the inclined mounting surface is reduced, the standoffs incline the aligning member in the same direction as the mounting surface.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The electrical connector of claim 87, wherein the standoffs are arranged so that the aligning member inclines at a smaller angle than the mounting surface.

10. (original) The electrical connector of claim 7, wherein the apertures are beveled to facilitate insertion of the tines.
11. (original) The electrical connector of claim 7, wherein the standoffs are provided on a bottom surface of the base plate along a longitudinal direction thereof.
12. (original) The electrical connector of claim 11, wherein the standoffs on one side of the bottom surface of the base plate protrude a smaller distance from the bottom surface than the standoffs on the other side of the base plate.
13. (currently amended) An aligning member for an inclined electrical connector, comprising:
a base plate having a plurality of apertures for receiving and aligning tines of contacts that extend from a housing of the inclined electrical connector, the base plate having standoffs that protrude from the base plate to abut a circuit board such that bending stress applied to the tines by the inclined electrical connector is reduced, the standoffs incline the aligning member in the same direction as the housing.
14. (cancelled)
15. (currently amended) The aligning member of claim 14, wherein the standoffs are arranged so that the aligning member inclines at a smaller angle than the housing.

16. (original) The aligning member of claim 13, wherein the apertures are beveled to facilitate insertion of the tines.
17. (original) The aligning member of claim 13, wherein the standoffs are provided on a bottom surface of the base plate along a longitudinal direction thereof.
18. (original) The aligning member of claim 17, wherein the standoffs on one side of the bottom surface of the base plate protrude a smaller distance from the bottom surface than the standoffs on the other side of the base plate.
19. (original) The aligning member of claim 13, wherein the aligning member is moveable with respect to the housing.